



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

It is with sincere concern that we write to you regarding the recently established “Disinformation Governance Board” within the Department of Homeland Security.¹ Your recent testimony and media statements regarding the board, as well as a recent briefing for Committee staff, have only created more questions and concern. This Committee will carry out rigorous oversight of this board.

In addition to further explanation regarding the establishment of the board, the American people deserve continued transparency surrounding the board’s discussions, decisions, and actions. To that end, we demand that you make publicly available on the Department’s website the following information:

1. The establishing charter of the Disinformation Governance Board, including the purpose, goals, and authority of such board, as well as any changes or updates to that charter as those occur going forward;
2. A list of current Disinformation Governance Board members, including the member’s position within the Department and appointing authority (Presidential Appointment with Senate Confirmation, Presidential Appointment without Senate Confirmation, Noncareer Senior Executive Service, Career Senior Executive Service, etc.), as well as any changes or updates to that list as those occur going forward;
3. A descriptive list of all budgetary expenses related to the operation of the Disinformation Governance Board;

¹ Laco, K. (2022, April 30). *Free speech concerns mount over DHS “disinformation” board as lawmakers, critics weigh in*. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/free-speech-concerns-dhs-disinformation-board-lawmakers-critics>

4. Details regarding the frequency of Disinformation Governance Board meetings and the planned agendas for the meetings;
5. Ongoing information on the establishment of any sub-groups, including working groups or task forces, which result from the Disinformation Governance Board's work;
6. Minutes and recommendations that result from any and all Disinformation Governance Board meetings, posted and subsequently archived; and
7. A list of private sector entities, including social media companies, which the Disinformation Governance Board and its members interact with, as well as details regarding those interactions.

As you are aware, information to this effect is made available by numerous government bodies, including but not limited to the Homeland Security Advisory Council.² Considering that fact, as well as the constitutional concerns which have arisen from the Department's involvement in matters such as this, these are standards that must be met for the sake of transparency.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please respond to this letter no later than May 23, 2022. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Adrienne Spero on the Committee staff at (202) 226-8417.

Sincerely,



JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member



MICHAEL GUEST
Vice Ranking Member



AUGUST PFLUGER
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Intelligence & Counterterrorism



CLAY HIGGINS
Member of Congress

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2022, March 17). *Homeland Security Advisory Council*. Homeland Security Advisory Council | Homeland Security. Retrieved May 2, 2022, from <https://www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-advisory-council>



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